

XLIV.—*A List of the Tyrant-birds of Mexico, with descriptions of some new species.* By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

(Plate XIV.)

THE Tyrant-birds (*Tyrannidæ*) of the New World have, as is now well known from the researches of Joh. Müller*, Cabanis, and other writers, no natural affinity with the Flycatchers (*Muscicapidæ*) of the Old World, although their habits are in some respects similar, and they doubtless perform the same functions in the economy of nature in their respective hemispheres. While the Flycatchers are closely connected with the Warblers (*Sylviidæ*), so closely indeed that it is exceedingly difficult to decide to which of the two families to refer certain genera, the Tyrant-birds are so intimately allied with the Fruit-eaters (*Cotingidæ*), that Cabanis†, Van der Hoeven‡ and other writers have proposed to embrace them in the same natural family. Without assenting to this, I admit that the two groups of birds are very nearly allied, and must be placed next to each other, and that there are certain forms (such as *Tityra*, *Pachyrhamphus*, *Querula*, &c.) which seem to share the characters of both the families.

The Tyrant-birds of the New World then, assuming their distinctness from the Fruit-eaters, form a very extensive group, embracing numerous genera and species, at present very imperfectly known, and exceedingly difficult to distinguish and classify, owing to their uniform colouring and great general resemblance. As, however, is the case in many other difficult groups, much assistance may be derived by paying attention to their geographical distribution, the species of *Tyrannidæ*, as of other Neogean families, being, with some few exceptions, rather restricted in their range, and those of one zoological region being generally distinct from those of another.

Professor Baird, in his 'General Report upon N. American Ornithology,' has given an elaborate analysis of the species of

* Ueber den bisher unbekannten typische Verschiedenheiten der Stimmorgane der Passerinen. Abh. Akad. Berlin, 1845, p. 321.

† Ornithologische Notizen, Wiegmann's Archiv, 1847, p. 232.

‡ Handbook of Zoology (English edition), ii. p. 475.

Tyrannidæ which are found in the United States. My present object is to bring together the names of such as have occurred to me in several collections formed in Mexico, which I have lately examined, and such as have been recorded by other writers as found within the limits of the Mexican Confederation.

I am at present inclined to divide the *Tyrannidæ* into four subfamilies.

1. *Attilinæ*, consisting of the few members of the genus *Attila*, Lesson (including *Dasycephala*, Sw.), and their allies, which seem to form a connecting link between the *Formicariidæ* (with which they are arranged by Cabanis, Burmeister, and others) and the *Tyrannidæ*. They are, I believe, terrestrial in their habits. Their typical colouring is rufous.

2. *Teniopterinæ*—a very distinct division of the family, recognized as such by G. R. Gray, Bonaparte, and indeed almost all writers. They are eminently terrestrial in their habits, and most abundant in the southern portion of the South American continent, inhabiting the open pampas, seashores, and sides of the rivers. Their typical *ptilosis* is black and white, scarcely one olive-green species being found amongst them. The sexes are often differently coloured in this group.

3. *Tyranninæ*, the most numerous group in species, embracing the typical wood-loving Tyrants, very varying in form when carefully studied, but nearly all clothed in the same olive-green and yellow dress, sometimes passing into rufous. The sexes in this division are, with but few exceptions, coloured alike.

4. *Platyrhynchinæ*, a division formed by Dr. Cabanis for the wide-billed birds belonging to the genera *Platyrhynchus*, *Todirostrum*, &c., mostly of small size, and distinguished by the usual absence of rictal bristles, and the shorter wings and long and slender tarsi. They are, I believe, exclusively arboreal in their habits, and in colouring do not depart from the type of the *Tyranninæ*, from which I am doubtful if they are really separable as a subfamily.

Birds of all these four supposed subfamilies occur within the limits of the Mexican Confederation. I now proceed to notice those species of which I have myself seen Mexican specimens.

I. ATTILINÆ.

1. ATTILA CITREOPYGIUS (Bp.). *Dasycephala citreopyga*, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxxviii. p. 657; Notes Orn. p. 86; Slater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 227, et 1859, p. 41.

Hab. S. Mexico, Vera Cruz and Playa Vicente (Boucard), and southwards to Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Mus. P. L. S.

II. TÆNIOPTERINÆ.

2. SAYORNIS NIGRICANS, Slater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296. *Tyrannula nigricans*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 367; Baird, Rep. p. 183.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); northern provinces (Couch).

Mus. P. L. S.

The aquatic habits of the birds of this group (see Fraser in P. Z. S. 1858, p. 457, and Salvin, *antea*, p. 119), as well as their close alliance with *Ochthoëca*, induce me to arrange them here.

3. SAYORNIS PALLIDA, Slater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 204. *Tyrannula pallida*, Sw. Phil. 1827, p. 367. *M. saya*, Bp. *Sayornis sayus*, Baird, Rep. p. 185.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Jalapa (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

III. TYRANNINÆ.

4. SCAPHORHYNCHUS MEXICANUS, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1851, p. 473; Slater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 204.

Hab. S. Mexico, Jalapa (Boucard & de Oca); Orizaba (Botteri).

Mus. P. L. S.

5. PITANGUS DERBIANUS, Slater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297. *Saurophagus derbianus*, Kp. P. Z. S. 1851, p. 44, pl. 36. *S. sulphuratus*, Gambel, Journ. Acad. Phil. i. p. 39.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Jalapa (de Oca).

Mus. P. L. S.

6. MYIODYNASTES LUTEIVENTRIS, Slater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 42. *Tyrannus audax*?, Slater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Orizaba (Botteri); Jalapa (de Oca).

Mus. P. L. S.

7. *TYRANNUS INTREPIDUS* (Vieill.). *T. carolinensis*, Baird, Rep. p. 171; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 302; Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 368.

Hab. Whole of Mexico; table-land (Sw.); Playa Vicente (Boucard).

8. *TYRANNUS VOCIFERANS*, Sw. Quart. Journ. Sc. 1826, p. 273; Baird, Rep. p. 174. *Tyrannus cassinii*, Baird, Rep. p. 175.

Hab. Northern Mexico (Kennerly); Oaxaca (Boucard); and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

9. *TYRANNUS COUCHII*, Baird, Rep. p. 175.

Hab. North-eastern Mexico (Couch); Orizaba (Botteri).

Mus. P. L. S.

I have a specimen, collected by Botteri, which I refer, rather doubtfully, to this species.

10. *TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS*, Vieill.; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297; Baird, Rep. p. 176.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Orizaba (Botteri); Jalapa (de Oca); and southwards to Guatemala and S. America.

Mus. P. L. S.

A common S. American species, and of exceptionally wide distribution.

11. *TYRANNUS CRASSIROSTRIS*, Sw. Quart. Journ. Sc. xx. p. 273 (1826).

Hab. Maritime and table-lands (Sw.); Mazatlan (Verreaux).

Mus. P. L. S.

12. *MILVULUS MONACHUS*, Hartl. R. Z. 1844, p. 214. *M. tyrannus*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297; Baird, Rep. p. 168.

Hab. S. Mexico, Plains of Vera Cruz (Sallé); Playa Vicente, Oaxaca (Boucard); and southwards to Guatemala and Honduras.

Mus. P. L. S.

13. *MILVULUS FORFICATUS* (Gm.); Bp. Am. Orn. pl. 2. fig. 1; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 204; Baird, Rep. p. 169.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Jalapa (Boucard); Texas and N. Mexico (Lieut. Couch); and southwards to Guatemala and Honduras.

14. MYIARCHUS CRINITUS (Linn.); Baird, Rep. p. 178.

I have not yet seen this species from Mexico, but, as it extends to Guatemala (*antea*, p. 121), there can be no doubt of its occurrence there.

15. MYIARCHUS COOPERI, Kaup, P. Z. S. 1851, p. 51; Baird, Rep. p. 180.

Hab. Mexico, Oaxaca (Boucard), and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

16. MYIARCHUS LAWRENCII. *Tyrannula lawrencii*, Giraud, B. Texas, pl. 2. *Myiarchus mexicanus*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296; Baird, Rep. p. 181.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Orizaba (Bott.); Jalapa (de Oca); New Leon (Couch).

Mus. P. L. S.

17. MYIARCHUS CINERASCENS (Lawr.). *Tyrannula cinerascens*, Lawr. *M. mexicanus*, Baird, Rep. p. 179.

Hab. Whole of Mexico; Coahuile (Couch); Playa Vicente (Boucard); and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

18. MYIARCHUS FUSCUS (Gm.). *Sayornis fusca*, Baird, Rep. p. 184.

Hab. Mexico, Jalapa (de Oca).

Mus. P. L. S.

19. CONTOPUS BOREALIS (Sw.); Sclater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 301. *Tyrannus cooperi*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Parada, Oaxaca (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

20. CONTOPUS MESOLEUCUS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 43.

Hab. S. Mexico, Orizaba (Bott.), and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

21. *CONTOPUS SORDIDULUS*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 43.

Hab. S. Mexico, Orizaba (Bott.), and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

22. *CONTOPUS VIRENS* (Linn.) : Baird, Rep. p. 195.

Hab. Mexico, and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

23. *EMPIDONAX BRACHYTARSUS*, sp. nov.

Obscure cineraceus, pileo alis et cauda saturationibus, uropygio olivaceo vix tincto : tectricibus alarum minoribus et majoribus et secundariis extus ad apicem sordido albo stricte marginatis : subtus dilutior, gula albicante, ventre medio flavicante : tectricibus subalaribus rufescente vix tinctis : rostro superiore corneo, inferiore flavido, pedibus nigris : long. tota 5·3, alæ 2·9, caudæ 2·4, rostri a rictu 5·5, tarsi 5.

Hab. In Mexico Merid. ; Cordova (Sallé), et Santecomapam.

Mus. P. L. S.

I have two specimens of this little bird in my cabinet, one of them being from M. Sallé's first collection made at Cordova, and the other received from M. Verreaux. Its general appearance is more that of a *Contopus*, with which it also agrees in its short tarsi ; but its much shorter wings induce me to arrange it with *Empidonax*, placing it next to *Empidonax traillii* of the U.S., which has also short tarsi. The wings are rather longer than in *E. traillii*, the second quill being longest, the third and fourth slightly diminishing in length, and the fifth longer than the first. The greenish tinge on the rump is hardly perceptible.

24. *EMPIDONAX PUSILLUS* (Sw.) : *Platyrhynchus pusillus*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 366 ? ; Baird, Rep. p. 194.

Hab. Northern Mexico, Los Nogales (Kennerly).

25. *EMPIDONAX MINIMUS*, Baird, Rep. p. 195.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Orizaba (Bott.) : Oaxaca, Playa Vicente and Talea (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

26. *EMPIDONAX FLAVIVENTRIS*, Baird, Rep. p. 198.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Jalapa (de Oca).

Mus. P. L. S.

27. *EMPIDONAX BAIRDI*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 301.

Hab. Southern Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Oaxaca (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

28. *MITREPHORUS PHÆOCERCUS*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 44: *Tyrannula* (sp. 104), Selater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296: *Empidonax* sp., Selater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 302. (Plate XIV. fig. 2.)

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Orizaba (Botteri); La Parada, Oaxaca (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

I now figure this common Mexican species, for which, after vainly attempting to fit it in in two or three places, I was compelled to invent two new names. Its rich brown under surface will render it easily recognizable among its Mexican brethren, its only near ally being the next species, *M. fulvifrons*, which is much paler and more buffy below.

29. *MITREPHORUS FULVIFRONS* (Giraud): Selater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 44: *Muscicapa fulvifrons*, Giraud, B. Texas, pl. 2. fig. 2: *Empidonax fulvifrons*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 301.

Hab. S. Mexico, Oaxaca (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

30. *PYROCEPHALUS MEXICANUS*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 45: *Tyrannula coronata*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 367: *P. rubineus*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Cordova (Sallé), and southwards to Guatemala and Honduras.

Mus. P. L. S.

31. *MYIOBIUS SULPHUREIPYGIUS*. *Tyrannula sulphureipygia*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé).

Mus. P. L. S.

32. *LEGATUS VARIEGATUS*. *Elania variegata*, Selater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297; Ibis, 1859, p. 123.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé); Jalapa (de Oca); Oaxaca, Playa Vicente (Boucard); and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.



John J. Audubon, ad nat. del et lit.

Stannard & Dixon

- 1, CAMPYLOTOMA IMBERBE.
- 2, MITREPHORUS PHAEOCERCUS.

33. MYIOZETETES TEXENSIS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 45 : *Musc. texensis*, Giraud, B. Texas, pl. 1 : *Tyrannula cayennensis*, Sw. Phil. Mag. 1827, p. 367.

Hab. Whole of Mexico, Cordova (Sallé) ; Jalapa (de Oca).

Mus. P. L. S.

34. ELAINIA PLACENS, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 46 ; Ibis, 1859, p. 123, pl. iv. fig. 2 : *Elænia* (sp. 113), Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 297.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé), and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

IV. PLATYRHYNCHINÆ.

35. MUSCIVORA MEXICANA, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 295, et 1859, p. 300.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé) ; Oaxaca (Boucard), and southwards to Guatemala.

36. CYCLORHYNCHUS BREVIROSTRIS, Cab. Orn. Notiz. in Wieg. Arch. 1847, p. 249 ; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé).

Mus. P. L. S.

37. CYCLORHYNCHUS CINEREICEPS, sp. nov.

Læte olivaceus, pileo et nucha cineraceis, loris et oculorum ambitu albis : alis et cauda brunnescenti-nigris, extus flavo stricte marginatis : subtus pallide cineraceus, abdomine toto citrino-flavicante, lateribus olivaceo indutis, tectricibus subalaribus pallide citrinis : rostro superiore corneo, inferiore albedo, pedibus pallide corylinis : long. tota 5·3, alæ 2·5, caudæ 2·4, rostri a rictu 0·7, tarsi 0·7.

Hab. In Statu Oaxaca, reipubl. Mex. (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

A recent collection from M. Boucard submitted to my examination by M. Sallé contains this species, which is the Mexican representative of the S. American *C. sulphurescens*, as *C. brevirostris* is of *C. olivaceus*. It is easily distinguished, however, from the southern bird by its pure cinereous cap and pale grey throat.

I have now specimens of the following species of this group :

- (1) *C. olivaceus*, ex Brasil.; (2) *C. sp.*? probably new, ex fl. Amazonum sup.; (3) *C. brevirostris*, ex Mexico; (4) *C. sulphurescens*, ex Brasil., fl. Amaz., et Nova Grenada; (5) *C. schistaceiceps*, ex Mexico; (6) *C. flaviventris*, ex Brasil., fl. Amaz., et Nov. Grenada; (7) *C. ruficauda* (Spix), ex Cayenna et fl. Amazon.

The last-named bird is rather aberrant in form.

38. *TODIROSTRUM CINEREUM* (Linn.); P. Z. S. 1857, p. 203.

Hab. S. Mexico, Santecomapam (Boucard), and southwards to Mexico and Guatemala.

39. *TODIROSTRUM SCHISTACEICEPS*, sp. nov.

Olivaceo-viride, pileo toto cum nucha obscure schistaceis: macula ante-oculari alba: alis nigris, flavicante extus limbatis; cauda nigra; olivaceo extus limbata: subtus cinerascens, gutture albescentiore, ventre medio lactescenti-albo, lateribus flavescentibus: camptorio flavo, tectricibus subalaribus pallide citrinis; rostro nigro, tomis pallidis; pedibus pallide corylinis: long. tota 3.5, alæ 1.9, caudæ 1.2, rostri a rictu 6.5, tarsi 0.75.

Hab. In Statu Oaxaca, reipubl. Mexicanæ (Boucard).

Mus. P. L. S.

This new *Todirostrum* is the only species that I have seen from the country north of Panama besides *T. cinereum* and the next aberrant bird, of which it will probably be necessary to form a separate division. I am now acquainted with more than twenty species of this group, but none of them much resemble the present bird in coloration.

40. *TODIROSTRUM CINEREIGULARE*, Slater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 295.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé).

Mus. P. L. S.

41. *CAMPTOSTOMA IMBERBE*, Slater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 203. (Plate XIV. fig. 1.)

S. Andres Tuxtla, Vera Cruz (Boucard).

I here give a figure of this singular little bird from M. Sallé's type specimen, which is in my cabinet. I have not yet met with a second example. I have pointed out its peculiar characteristics in my original description referred to above. Its short

wings, much compressed bill, and short tarsi, render it very distinct from *Todirostrum*, and this is certainly not its natural place. It seems to be more nearly allied to *Tyrannulus* and *Elainia*.

42. *PLATYRHYNCHUS CANCROMA* (Licht.), Scater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 295.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé).

I am not quite certain of the identity of this bird with the South American species.

43. *MIONECTES ASSIMILIS*, Scater, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 46 : *M. oleagineus*, Scater, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 296.

Hab. S. Mexico, Cordova (Sallé), and southwards to Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

I possess examples of all the above species except *Muscivora mexicana*, and *Mexican* specimens of all those I have marked as in my collection, upon the authenticity of which I can rely. My collection of *Tyrannidæ* now numbers nearly 400 examples, and I hope shortly to be able to publish a revision of the whole group.

XLV.—*Note on Pel's Owl* (*Scotopelia peli*). By JOHN HENRY GURNEY, M.P., F.Z.S.

(Plate XV.)

HAVING lately been most liberally presented with a living specimen of this extremely rare Owl by Colonel O'Connor, C.B. (Lieut.-Col. 1st W. I. Regt.), by whom it was recently brought from the River Gambia, I have requested Mr. Wolf to draw the bird from the life; and as the species has, I believe, not been previously figured, I trust that the accompanying Plate (Pl. XV.) will prove an acceptable contribution to the pages of "The Ibis."

The late Prince C. L. Bonaparte, in p. 44 of his 'Conspectus Generum Avium,' gives the following concise but comprehensive notice of this species :—